

M I N U T E S
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
JANUARY 3, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN WIGGINS AT 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mr. Jonathan Felton, Mr. Charlie R. Harrell, Vice-Chairman, Ms. Evelyn Powell, Ms. Viola Harris and Rev. E. Wayne Hines.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lorenzo Carmon, County Manager, Mr. Mahlon DeLoatch, County Attorney and Ms. Carolyn S. Hedgepeth, Clerk to the Board.

2. **PRAYER**

Invocation provided by Rev. E. Wayne Hines.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL**

Rev. Hines moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2010 meeting as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

4. **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT(s):**

A. **Mr. Charles Flowers of Flowers and Stanley, LLP presented a summary of the Edgecombe County FY 2009-2010 annual audit report.**

Mr. Flowers reminded the Board that State law requires an annual independent audit review. He explained that the letter of transmittal, which included in the report, was the County Management's review, followed by the financial section, which is the auditors report. He said the county received an unqualified opinion which is the highest opinion offered in an audit. He said net assets had increased by a little over four million dollars with a large portion of that coming from grants. He said property tax revenues were up due to the revaluation, but sales taxes were down. He explained that \$1.4 million of the increased revenues were in general fund with the remaining in the water enterprise. He reviewed the governmental funds, which reflected an increase in the general fund balance, which stands at 19% - 20%. He commended the county on this increase stating that over the last three years the general fund balance had shown an annual decrease. He said the tax collection percentage was also up from 92.11% to 92.47%. He said statewide average as of 2009 was 96.15%. He said they found no material weaknesses in compliance of internal controls.

B. **Mr. Jim Wrenn, Vice President of the Phoenix Historical Society, was present to inform the Board of George Henry White Day activities.**

Mr. Wrenn stated that January 29, 2011 was George Henry White day in Edgecombe County and he said they planned an unveiling of a NC Highway Historical Marker during the celebration. He said Former U. S. Congresswoman, Eva Clayton would be

the guest speaker. He officially invited the Board and asked Chairman Wiggins to participate on the program. He said the program would start at 11:00 a.m. in the County Auditorium and at the conclusion; they would walk to the marker for placement.

5. PUBLIC PETITIONS:

Mr. Ellis Culliford, Lawrence Community said that he had come to petition the board to provide water to the Kilquick community several years ago and he was now present to thank the Board for approving the extension of water to his community. He said he is proud to say that they now have water. He also thanked the County Manager, Lorenzo Carmon and Mike Matthews, Water Director.

Mr. Bobby Frueller, East Tarboro, thanked the Board for changing the meeting time from day to night to allow people such as himself that work during the day to attend. He said this change allows citizens to have more of a voice in their local government. He presented several requests of the County including, updating the County website, providing a link to the current financial budget, add the agenda and minutes to the website and encourage staff to return phone calls.

He expressed his views on the county's financial situation stating that he could not afford to pay more taxes. He said the county should look into the duplication of services they provide particularly having a social services office in Tarboro and Rocky Mount. He asked the Board how they planned to pay for the loan for the Embarq building renovations. He implored the Board to look at ways to cut spending and reduce the tax burdens on the citizens.

Mr. Wiggins directed the staff to look at some of the issues regarding the website and return of phone calls.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. Approval of submittal of a \$147,006.50 project application to the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, Division of Governor's Crime Commission to continue the Project Reentry initiative currently being implemented with "It Starts With U Foundation."

Mr. Carmon stated that the county had an opportunity to submit a grant application to the NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety to continue the Project Reentry Initiative in partnership with "It Starts with U Foundation. He said the grant amount was for \$140,000 and if funded the county would be able to continue its efforts to reduce the rate of recidivism for ex offenders.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the project application as submitted. Ms. Powell seconded the motion.

Ms. Harris asked for a report on what the foundation has accomplished. Mr. Carmon stated that he would make it available at the next meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. Budget amendments.

Mr. Carmon pointed out the budget amendment for the E911 funds. He said that up to 50% could be used for non-emergency items and they planned to use \$10,000 to provide air conditioning at the E-911 center equipment room.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of a request from Edgecombe County to NC Department of Transportation to complete installation of sidewalk on Saint Andrew Street to Granville Street in Tarboro.

Mr. Carmon said that when the NC Department of Transportation (DOT) completed the new bridge they included installing a sidewalk. He said the sidewalk stops at the county owned parking lot on Saint Andrew Street and he recommended that a request be sent to DOT to extend the sidewalk to Granville Street for pedestrian safety.

Mr. Harrell recommended that a letter be sent to the Department of Transportation requesting the completion of the sidewalk.

Mr. Felton asked that the letter also be sent to our local delegation.

Mr. Felton moved to authorize the Chairman to submit a request to complete installation of the sidewalk on Saint Andrew Street to Granville Street as presented. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Consideration of approval of the submission of a grant request from the Sheriff's Department to the Governor's Crime Commission for \$225,514 for 800 MHz radios.

Mr. Carmon said the Sheriff's Office planned to apply for funding from the Governor's Crime Commission for \$225,514 to purchase 800 MHz radios. He said the grant request a 50% local match, however, the application request a waiver in hopes that the grant will be funded at 100%. He said they are requesting 17 portable and 55 stationary radios.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the submission of grant request by the Sheriff's Department and authorize the Sheriff to request waiver of the 50% match requirement as presented. Ms. Harris seconded the motion.

Mr. Harrell asked what the chances were of getting the waiver.

Mr. Carmon said that the county has received waivers before and if this was not approved then it would come back before the Board to ask for an appropriation but perhaps not requesting all the radios.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of an application for franchise request from K & L Transport Services to operate ambulances in Edgecombe County.

Mr. Carmon said that K & L Transport Services, L.L.C. had submitted an application for a franchise to operate both an emergency and non-emergency transportation service in the county. He said that the county currently had Edgecombe County and West Edgecombe Rescue services along with Med 1 as a backup. He recommended not awarding the franchise to K & L at this time because the proposed service would not fit within the existing service and may adversely affect the level of service of other franchise holders.

Mr. Felton asked if our emergency service vehicles were adequately taking care of the emergency calls. Mr. Carmon explained that the local emergency providers make about \$600,000 annually providing non-emergency transport and it helps to reduce the annual appropriation request coming from these units.

Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Perkins said their objective was to help the rescue squads and they planned only to go out at the request of the rescue squad. He said they did not want to take revenue from the squad but just to provide additional assistance. He said that Med 1 shuts down at 7:00 p.m. and K & L would provide back up when they shut down. Ms. Perkins said that they are a local company and they want to support the citizens of Edgecombe County.

Mr. Perkins said that they are franchised in Nash County and as long as they take the residents outside of Edgecombe County, they are not violating any ordinance.

Mr. Wiggins asked how we currently use Med 1.

Mr. Butch Beach, Emergency Services Director responded that the rescue squad handles the emergency calls. Med-1 only serves on emergency calls in the instance of a multiple incident so they primarily handle non-emergency transport. He said that all calls go to the 911 center and then they call Med 1 when needed.

Rev. Hines asked staff to bring this back to them after further review.

Rev. Hines moved to table the request for further review. Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

A. Volunteer Fire Department's Local Firemen's Relief Fund.

Rev. Hines moved to re-appoint and/or appoint the slate as presented. Mr. Harrell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wayne Calhoun, Mr. Chester Lancaster, Mr. John Hathaway, Mr. David Long, Mr. Johnnie Lockamy, Mr. Donald Ray Wooten, Mr. Tim Boyd, Mr. Don Pollard and Mr. Stanley Liverman, II.

B. City of Rocky Mount Board of Adjustment. **DEFERRED**

C. Edgecombe County Human Relations Commission.

Rev. Hines moved to appoint Ms. Yolanda Thigpen. Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Edgecombe County Adult Care Home Committee.

Rev. Hines moved to appoint Ms. Barbara Gregory as presented. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Edgecombe County Board of Health.

Rev. Hines moved to reappoint Dr. G. R. Alligood, Dr. Thomas Knox, Dr. Mandy Tolson and Mrs. Viola Harris. Mr. Harrell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Tourism Development Advisory Council.

Rev. Hines moved to appoint Mr. Troy Lewis. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

G. Edgecombe County Nursing Home Advisory Committee

Rev. Hines moved to reappoint Ms. Mary Beamon and Ms. Gladys Shelton. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

H. Edgecombe County Pollution Control Financing Authority. **DEFERRED**

8. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.

Mr. Felton moved to excuse Ms. Powell from the vote due to conflict of interest. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the contracts over \$50,000 as presented. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

9. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Mr. Harrell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

10. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW. *RECEIVED*****

- A. Water Services
- B. Veteran's Services
- C. Pre-trial Release Program

11. MANAGER'S REPORT. *RECEIVED*****

A. 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Agenda

Ms. JeMilla Hawkins and Mr. Art Bradley works with HRC and CEO to put together the activities.

B. 2011 Property Tax Calendar

C. February 7, 2011 invited to dinner at 5:00 with ECC at the college to give an updates on their goals and activities.

Mr. Wiggins recommended that we have the meeting at the Community College. Mr. Harrell stated that the Fleming Building Room 152 would be suitable.

Rev. Hines moved to hold the next regular scheduled meeting on February 7, 2011 at Edgecombe Community College Fleming Building, Room 152 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA:

A. Approval for financing renovations of various County buildings with RBC Bank and Update on project.

Mr. Carmon stated that they had bid opening on December 21st and the low bidder was D S Simmons coming in at a total of \$6,038,700. He said the bids were good until March 21, 2011 because we still have to submit them to the Local Government Commission for approval.

He said that they had received bids last Thursday from RBC for the financing of the project. He recommended approval to submit the application to Local Government Commission using RBC for financing not to exceed 8 million with 1 million paying off the loan to purchase the building.

Mr. Wiggins moved to approve the submission of the application to Local Government Commission as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the motion.

Motion carried by majority vote. Voting in favor was Mr. Wiggins, Ms. Powell, and Ms. Harris and Rev. Hines. Voting against the motion was Mr. Harrell, Mr. Boswell and Mr. Felton.

12. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

Mr. Felton moved to designate Ms. Viola Harris as the Edgecombe County Voting Delegate for the Legislative Goals Conference in Raleigh. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

13. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

14. CLOSED SESSION ITEM.

Rev. Hines moved to go into closed session to discuss economic development and a legal matter. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

- a. Economic Development
- b. Legal Matter

Ms. Powell moved to recess closed session and resume regular session. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Harrell moved to accept the settlement agreement to accept liquidated damages from Herring-Rivenbark in the amount of actual cost \$25,077.52 and to allow Herring-Rivenbark to withdraw their bid as recommended by both our contracted Attorney and the County Attorney and to authorize the Chairman to execute the related document. Ms. Powell seconded the motion.

Motion was approved by majority vote with Mr. Harrell, Ms. Powell, Mr. Wiggins, Mr. Felton, Ms. Harris and Rev. Hines voting in favor of the motion. Mr. Boswell voted against the motion.

Mr. Felton moved to resume the closed session seconded by Mr. Boswell and approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Harrell moved to go out of closed session. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Felton stated that one of his constituents told him that he had gone to the DMV License Tags office to get his tags renewed and the notary collected her fee in cash and would not provide him a receipt for the notarization. He asked Mr. Carmon if this was a common practice.

Mr. Carmon said that a receipt should be provided. He also stated that the notary fees were sent to DMV and are not retained by the notary.

Board instructed Mr. Carmon to make sure we are providing receipts.

Mr. Felton asked whether we should have a deputy in attendance at our meetings in light of the incident that happened recently where a citizen began shooting at a board meeting. The Board recommended looking into obtaining a visible officer at future meetings.

15. REV. HINES MOVED TO ADJOURN MEETING UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011.
MR. HARRELL SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS
VOTE.

Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman

Ms. Carolyn S. Hedgepeth, Clerk